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ENG 5005-001: The Victorian Novel: Dickens and Hardy

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English 5005-01: The Victorian Novel: Dickens and Hardy

TR 1900-2130; CH 3139

Spring 2003

Professor Richard Sylvia

Office: Coleman 3775

Office Hours: TR 10:30 – 11:30 am; 4:00 – 5:00 pm; 6:30 – 7:00 pm; and by appt.

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Course Description, Design, and Goals: Published between 1852 and 1887, the seven novels that we will read for this course represent the triumph of the Victorian novel. This is also the period in which England made the transition “from a predominantly rural to a predominantly urban society” (Williams 165). Since Dickens is primarily associated with London and Hardy with rural Wessex, we will begin by setting up “a contrast between the fiction of the city and the fiction of the country,” as discussed by Raymond Williams in The Country and the City. But I expect that every class member will develop her own critical interest in and approach to these works during the term, and that sharing our various discoveries in seminar presentations and discussions will result in a broad understanding of Dickens, Hardy, and the Victorian novel generally.

Texts: as listed in the **Schedule** below, plus handouts from me and group presenters

Requirements and Grading:

1. group presentation – 30%
2. research paper – 30%
3. final exam – 30%
4. class participation – 10%

Course Policies:

You must come to every graduate seminar meeting prepared to contribute to our discussions. Please prepare reading assignments carefully, consult secondary sources, develop your ideas for a research project early in the semester, and share your thoughts, questions and illuminations with the class.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

Tentative Schedule

Jan. 16: course introduction; period background; Dickens background

Jan. 23: Bleak House

Jan. 30: Bleak House

Feb. 6: Little Dorrit; **group presentation**

Feb. 13: Little Dorrit

Feb. 20: Our Mutual Friend; **group presentation**

Feb. 27: Our Mutual Friend

Mar. 6: Hardy background

Mar. 11, 13: Spring Break

Mar. 20: Far from the Madding Crowd

Mar. 27: The Return of the Native; **group presentation**

Apr. 3: The Return of the Native

Apr. 10: The Mayor of Casterbridge; **group presentation**

Apr. 17: The Mayor of Casterbridge

Apr. 24: The Woodlanders; **group presentation**

May 1: The Woodlanders

The date and time of the final exam will be announced later in the term.